I

NEW MEMBERS

The following new Members then made the prescribed oath or affirmation of allegiance to the Crown and took their seats :—

Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi.

Mr. C. Govindan Nayar.

II

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Excise

Alleged encouragement by Excise officers to bidders at auction sales.

*1507 Q.—Mr. A. B. Shetty : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether any District Propaganda Committees have complained to the Government that Excise officers encourage people to make higher bids at auction sales ;

(b) whether the Government have enquired into these allegations ; and

(c) whether the Government have issued any instructions to the officers of the Excise Department to co-operate with the District Propaganda Committees in their work ?

A.—(a) & (b) Yes. A representation to this effect was received from the Chairman, District Propaganda Committee, South Kanara. It was sent to the Commissioner of Excise.

(c) A copy of the instructions [a] issued by the Commissioner of Excise is attached.

Mr. A. B. Shetty :—" With reference to the answer given to clauses (a) and (b) may I know whether any enquiry was made by the Commissioner of Excise ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" I am not able to see to which part of the answer the hon. Member refers."

Mr. A. B. Shetty :—" The answer given to clauses (a) and (b) of the question runs thus :—' A representation to this effect was received from the Chairman, District Propaganda Committee, South Kanara. It was sent to the Commissioner of Excise.' May I know whether the Commissioner has made any enquiries about this and taken any action ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" The action taken is the issuing of a circular."

Mr. A. B. Shetty :—" May I know whether the presence of pracharakas is being objected to at the place of auction sales ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" I am not aware of it. '

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 398 infra.